(b) if so, the action taken by Government;

(c) whether Government has issued any instructions to State Governments to be vigilant in providing domicile certificates for recruitment in Army, since it is an issue of national security; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) A few instances of candidates attempting to get recruited in the Army on the basis of fake domicile certificates have been reported. The recruiting officers have been instructed to be vigilant. Stringent verification measures are in force to scrutinize the domicile/nationality, age and education qualification etc. of all candidates appearing for recruitment in Defence Forces. The domicile certificates issued by civil authorities are checked during various stages of recruitment and the candidates with fake domicile certificates are not permitted to attend the recruitment rally. Further, character and antecedents of the recruits are verified through the respective police/intelligence authorities. The State Governments have been requested to keep a vigil against candidates trying to get through the recruitment through fake certificates and provide necessary assistance to the recruiting offices.

Slowdown in foreign investment

*137. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is slowdown in foreign investment in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by Government to attract foreign business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflow in the country has increased from US$ 5.5 billion in 2005-06 to US$ 24.5 billion in the year 2007-08. The FDI inflows during April-December, 2008 were US$ 21.15 billion, which represents an increase of 67% over the corresponding period in the previous year. FDI equity inflows during April-September, 2008 have shown an increasing trend each month in comparison to the same period in the previous year. However, the inflows in October-December, 2008 have shown a decline.

(c) Various studies by international agencies and world wide analysis have assessed that the FDI flows to developing economies would generally decline.

Under the liberalised economic environment, investment decisions of investors are based on macro-economic policy framework, investment climate in the host country, investment policies of the trans-national corporations and other commercial considerations. Government has put in place a liberal and investor-friendly policy on FDI under which FDI up to 100% is permitted on the automatic route in most sectors/activities. The UNCTAD's World Investment

Reports for 2007 and 2008 have rated India as the second most attractive destination. Government has announced a slew of measures to accelerate the demand in the economy which would enable India to continue as an attractive investment destination. Government is also undertaking a number of initiatives for promotion and facilitation of investments.

Success of NREGA

*138. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, (NREGA) the ambitious scheme of Government to provide income to the rural poor has not been as successful as intended;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the job cards prepared for the beneficiaries are kept by the Gram Pradhans and the money that is meant to be given to them is actually not given; and

(c) if so, the steps Government would take to minimise the leakage in the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. NREGA has been successful in fulfillment of its objectives of augmentation of employment opportunities and creation of durable assets. So far in the current year, nearly 4 crore households have got employment under NREGA. Persondays generation under NREGA has been almost two times of the persondays generation in the earlier wage employment programmes. A significant share in the employment generated belongs to SCs (30%), STs (25%) and women (48%). 22 lakh works have been taken up in the current financial year of which 46% relate to water conservation, 18% to rural connectivity and 15% to land development. Individual land owned by 4.36 lakh households belonging to SC/ST, BPL and IAY have been benefited from NREGA works such as irrigation facility, land development and plantation.

(b) No, Sir. Para 2 of Schedule-II of NREG Act provides that all job cards shall be in the custody of the job card holders to whom they belong. Ministry of Rural Development has also issued instructions from time to time in this regard. However, seven instances have been brought to the notice of the Ministry regarding job cards being kept in the custody of Gram Pradhans which have been sent to the State Governments for suitable action.

(c) In order to minimise leakages in the implementation of NREGA, the Ministry has taken the following steps:—

(I) Generating Awareness

It is the constant endeavor of the Government to generate greater awareness among rural households about their legal rights under NREGA through intensive IEC activities. The efforts made in this regard involve print as well as electronic media such as brochures, people's primers, hand books, TV spots, radio jingles, advertisements, films etc. Gram Sabhas have been convened. Village camps have been organized by the District teams and Self Help Groups associated with awareness generation campaign. Government of India has also introduced awards known as Rozgar